

REMARKS

Claims 47-55 are pending. Claims 47-55 have been canceled and new claims 56-68 have been added to clarify what Applicants regard as the invention. Support for the amendments to the claims is found *inter alia* in the specification as follows. Support for new claims 56-58 is found at page 6, lines 15-17; page 8 lines 29-33; page 9, lines 12-15; page 17, lines 23-26; and page 19, lines 26-28. Support for new claim 59 is at page 21, lines 30-33. Support for new claims 60-64 is at page 18, lines 11-15. Support for new claim 65 is at page 20, lines 7-20. Support for new claim 66 is at page 34, lines 21-36. Support for new claim 67 is at page 8 lines 29-33. Support for new claim 68 is at page 8, lines 17-32. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 56-58 will be pending and under examination.

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting an interview with Applicants' attorney on March 30, 2005. The Examiner's comments were taken into consideration in drafting this response. The amendments and remarks made herein are designed to place the application into condition for allowance. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the amendments and remarks made herein be entered into the record of the application and fully considered by the Examiner.

The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112 Second Paragraph Should Be Withdrawn

The Examiner rejected claims 47-55 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

In response, Applicants point out that claims 47-55 are canceled by this Amendment. Applicants believe that new claims 56-68 do not raise the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph issues upon which the Examiner's rejection was based. In the March 30, 2005 interview, the Examiner agreed. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is now moot, and Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112 First Paragraph Should Be Withdrawn

The Examiner rejected claims 47-55 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a

way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In response, Applicants point out that claims 47-55 are canceled by this Amendment. Applicants believe that new claims 56-68 meet the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The new claims are directed to methods for treating or preventing HBV infection and methods for inhibiting HBV virus replication in an HBV-infected human subject comprising administering to the subject a small organic molecule that decreases the activity of a Src kinase family member.

The present invention is based in part on Applicants' discovery that the activity of cellular Src kinase family members is required for the replication of HBV (see e.g., pages 62-65 of the specification). In view of the high degree of structural and functional homology among the Src kinase family members, Applicants maintain that the instant specification supports the use in the claimed methods of a small organic molecule that decreases the activity of a Src kinase family member. It is undisputed that inhibitors of Src kinase family members were within the knowledge of those skilled in the art at the time of filing this application. A representative number of such inhibitors is provided by the specification, for example at page 20, lines 7-20.

In summary, Applicants maintain that, in view of the knowledge in the art, the high level of skill in the art, and the examples provided by the specification, the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is satisfied for the claimed methods. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments and remarks made herein be entered and made of record in the file history of the present application. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and a notice of allowance are requested. If any issues remain in connection herewith, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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